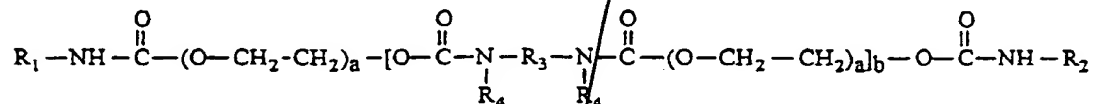


CLAIMS

1. Cosmetic composition, characterized in that it comprises, in a cosmetically acceptable medium,
- 5 (A) at least one amphiphilic nonionic associative polyurethane corresponding to the general formula



(I)

in which

- 10 one of the residues  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  represents a higher  $C_8-C_{18}$  alkyl group and the other represents a lower  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl group,
- $R_3$  represents a  $C_4-C_{36}$ , preferably  $C_6-C_{10}$ , hydrocarbon-based radical,
- 15  $R_4$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl radical, preferably a hydrogen atom,
- $a$  ranges, independently, from 90 to 600, and
- $b$  is from 1 to 4, and
- (B) at least one anionic polymer comprising at least
- 20 one unit derived from a fatty-chain monomer.

2. Cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the component (A) is a nonionic associative polyurethane in which, on average,

one of the radicals  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  in an  $\alpha$ - $\omega$  position represents an octadecyl group and the other represents a methyl group.

3. Cosmetic composition according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the component (A) is in the form of a solution or suspension in water also containing chemically, enzymatically or microbiologically modified soluble starch.

4. Cosmetic composition according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the polymers constituting the component (B) comprise units derived from carboxylic acids, from phosphonic acids or from sulphonic acids, and at least one unit bearing a fatty chain.

5. Composition according to Claim 4, characterized in that the anionic groups are chosen from groups derived from carboxylic acids, such as acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, crotonic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid or itaconic acid, groups derived from sulphonic acids, such as vinylsulphonic acid or styrenesulphonic acid, and groups derived from phosphonic acids, such as vinylphosphonic acid or styrenephosphonic acid.

6. Composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the units comprising a fatty chain are derived from monomers

comprising at least one linear or branched C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> alkyl chain.

7. Composition according to Claim 6, characterized in that the said monomer bearing at least one alkyl chain is chosen from C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> alkyl acrylates or methacrylates or vinyl esters of higher C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty acids.

8. Composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the said fatty-chain anionic polymers also contain nonionic units.

9. Composition according to Claim 8, characterized in that the said nonionic units are derived from vinyl, olefinic, styrene, acrylic or methacrylic monomers.

10. Composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterized in that it contains the component (A) in a proportion of from 0.1 to 10% by weight, and preferably from 0.5 to 5% by weight, expressed as active material relative to the total weight of the composition.

11. Composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that it contains the component (B) in a proportion of from 0.01 to 10% by weight, preferably in a proportion of from 0.1 to 5% by weight, of active material relative to the total weight of the composition.

12. Composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the weight ratio of the said nonionic associative polyurethane of formula (I) to the said anionic polymer comprising at least one fatty-chain monomer unit is within the range from 90/10 to 10/90.

13. Composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, characterized in that it is in the form of a leave-in haircare gel or styling gel.

10 14. Use of the combination of a nonionic associative polyurethane of formula (I) and an anionic polymer comprising at least one fatty chain, as a system for thickening a cosmetic composition.

15 15. Cosmetic process for treating the hair, characterized in that the composition defined according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 is applied to the hair and the hair thus treated is dried without rinsing it.

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